

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20070

This is one of a series of bills that the Supreme Court has recommended in its annual report to the Governor concerning defects or omissions in the laws, as required under article V, section 25 of the Idaho Constitution. This bill corrects the language of Idaho Code § 49-624, which requires drivers who approach stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights to take certain precautions. When the highway has two or more lanes carrying traffic in the same direction, the driver is required to change lanes as soon as possible in a manner that is reasonable and prudent. The intent is to require drivers to change lanes out of the lane that is adjacent to the emergency vehicle. The statute, however, does not make this clear, and drivers who have changed lanes into the lane that is adjacent to the stopped emergency vehicle have asserted that they complied with the statute by making this lane change. This bill would amend the statute to make it clear that drivers must change lanes out of the lane adjacent to the stopped emergency vehicle in a reasonable and prudent manner.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would have no impact on the general fund.

Contact:

Name: Patricia Tobias
Office: Administrative Director of the Courts
Phone: (208) 334-2246